

## **RIDEM EJ Stakeholder Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes from Tuesday 6-23-09 @ 4:00 pm**

**RI DEM, Conference Room A**

### **Attendees:**

**Terry Gray, Elizabeth Stone, Susan Forcier, Greg Gerritt, Amelia Rose, Jim Celenza, John Chambers, Phil Brown, JT Taylor, Steve Fischbach, Art Yatsko, Sandra Brownell.**

**Began 4:07.**

### **Welcome/Open Remarks/Introductions**

- Terry Gray from RIDEM provided some opening remarks welcoming everyone for coming back to the table after about a 1 year hiatus. The last stakeholder meeting was convened on July 30, 2008. He summarized what has been happening with the Springfield Street case since last summer, and indicated that there was an additional order in the case (May 2009) which was distributed to everyone prior to the meeting. Terry Gray summarized the key elements of the May 2009 order, and indicated that the group has some very specific work left to complete, including the 2 sub-committees that need to meet over the next couple of months.**
- Due to the fact that there were some new faces in the room, introductions were called for.**

- **Greg Gerritt requested that DEM distribute everyone's email address that attended today's meeting so people can communicate amongst themselves if needed.**

## **Discussion of Upcoming Meetings and Order**

- **Terry Gray explained that some stakeholders have decided not to continue participating in the process, and hence, DEM will need to find replacements for these individuals. Specifically, Bret Jedele and Robert Dorr have decided not to continue. Suggested replacements can be forwarded to DEM within the next 2 weeks.**
- **Discussion of Final EJ Policy as executed by DEM today, 6-23-09, and to be distributed/posted online officially on Friday 6-26-09.**
- **Discussion of multi-lingual hotline, CT sign requirements, and effective date of policy.**
- **Discussion of what elements of the policy DEM will look to incorporate into the Site Remediation regulations.**
- **Discussion of:**
  - o **DEM's jurisdiction (including limitations) over sites, and how DEM becomes "aware" of contaminated sites – bank required Phase I's, report of suspected contamination, etc. It was suggested that the earlier DEM takes jurisdiction over the site, the better.**
  - o **There is a need to create an opportunity for people to bring information about suspected sites forward.**
  - o **What happens if "use" of property suggests that a release may have happened?**

- o How do we collectively prevent contaminated sites from slipping through the cracks?
- o Timing of preparing draft/outline of regulatory amendments coming forth from the stakeholder process – it was suggested this could be accomplished by late fall.
- Discussion of the 2 sub-committees that will need to meet to comply with the latest Court Order.
- o One to be led by a non-DEM party to discuss Issues to Consider and Methods and Standards to Employ to Ensure a ‘hard-look’ at Environmental Equity Issues when Reviewing Clean-up Plans for Contaminated Sites.
- o The other to be led by DEM – will focus on the Community Involvement Process. Terry Gray explained that prior to this DEM-led subcommittee meeting an intensive Internal Evaluation of Community Involvement Process During the Investigation and Remediation of Contaminated Sites will need to be completed (per the Court Order). He suspects it will take DEM 2 to 3 weeks to complete. Once finished, the DEM-led subcommittee will be ready to begin its work. Attendees were asked to volunteer to participate in 1 or both of the subcommittee meetings (which will be open to the public).
- o It was determined that the non-DEM led subcommittee will meet for the first time on June 29th at 2:00 at Fuss & O’Neil, and the DEM-led subcommittee will likely meet the week of 7/27/09.
- It was explained that the two subcommittees will be given a reasonable amount of time for discussions, and to prepare recommendations for presentation to the full stakeholder group later

**this fall. The Court Order aims to have concluded the stakeholder process by 3/31/2010.**

- Some attendees suggested it would be nice to know that some sort of ongoing EJ discussion would continue (possibly bringing in other New England states) once the EJ stakeholder process comes to a conclusion.**
- Summary of upcoming meeting dates/targets for the 2 subcommittees (see above).**

**(Notes taken by Elizabeth Stone, RIDEM)**

**Approved December 9, 2009**